



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
Toni Hardesty, Director

November 23, 2004

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Office of Proceedings

Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

part of
Public Record

Subject: Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 218X). Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR);
Abandonment Exemption; in Kootenai County, Idaho (Coeur d'Alene Industrial
Lead)

In a June 15, 2004 letter to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) expressed its concerns regarding the abandonment of the Coeur d'Alene Industrial Lead from milepost 2.25 Feeley Spur to milepost 7.5, near Gibbs, Idaho. In an October 11, 2004 communication (and Attachment No. 5 submitted thereto) titled *Combined Environmental and Historic Report*, UPRR has stated they feel that no further evaluation of this line for potential contaminants is warranted.

Please be advised that our files will indicate that potential environmental contamination may exist on this site. We will inform any future buyers of this potential contamination and also inform them that it is the owner's responsibility to remediate the site.

Finally, the October 11, 2001 UPRR submittal did not address Spokane River water quality impacts that could result from track removal. We expect UPRR to notify DEQ during the planning stages for track removal to ensure appropriate protocols for water quality protection.

Sincerely,

Gwen P. Fransen
Regional Administrator

c: UPRR, Mack Shumate, Jr., Sr General Atty, 101 N. Wacker Dr, Rm 1920, Chicago IL 60606
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